

JUNE 15, 1976

LEBANON PEACE EFFORTS CONTINUE

ANNCR: AS WORLD AND ARAB CAPITALS WATCH CLOSELY, ANOTHER STEP IN PEACE EFFORTS IN LEBANON STARTS TODAY. NEWS ANALYST FRED GALVAN HAS THESE THOUGHTS:

VOICE: THE ARAB LEAGUE HAS BEGUN ACTIVE NEGOTIATIONS WITH LEADERS OF THE CHRISTIAN FACTION IN LEBANON ON THE LEAGUE'S EFFORTS TO FIND A SOLUTION TO LEBANON'S BLOODY CIVIL CONFLICT. THE ARAB LEAGUE'S SECRETARY-GENERAL, MAHMOUD RIAD, ARRIVED IN BEIRUT TODAY (TUESDAY) TO UNDERTAKE THOSE DISCUSSIONS. AT THE HEART OF HIS TALKS IS THE ARAB LEAGUE'S PROPOSAL TO SEND IN A PEACE-KEEPING FORCE MADE UP OF UNITS FROM SEVERAL ARAB STATES. SECRETARY-GENERAL RIAD SAID IN DAMASCUS MONDAY THAT SUCH A FORCE COULD MOVE INTO LEBANON WITHIN TEN DAYS --IF ALL PARTIES AGREE. A MAJOR CONSIDERATION IS WHAT ROLE SYRIAN TROOPS NOW IN LEBANON WILL PLAY IN RELATION TO THE PEACE-KEEPING FORCE. THE SYRIAN TROOPS ARE ESTIMATED TO NUMBER SOME TWELVE THOUSAND--AND A DAMASCUS SPOKESMAN HAS SAID THEY WILL NOT PULL OUT OF LEBANON UNTIL PEACE IS ASSURED, AND PRESIDENT-ELECT ELIAS SARKIS CAN TAKE OFFICE.

(OPT) MEANWHILE, THE LEADER OF LEBANON'S LEFTIST MOSLEM FACTION, KAMAL JUMLATT, HAS APPEALED TO FIVE ARAB COUNTRIES--EGYPT, IRAQ, TUNISIA, ALGERIA AND LIBYA--TO SEND TROOPS TO COUNTER SYRIAN TROOP ACTIONS. AND PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION LEADER ARAFAT HAS CALLED FOR ARAB VOLUNTEERS TO FIGHT WITH PALESTINIAN UNITS RESISTING SYRIAN MILITARY ACTIONS. (END OPT)

THAT, IN BRIEF, ARE SOME OF THE ELEMENTS IN THE CONTINUING SITUATION PREVAILING IN LEBANON --A SITUATION CAUSING DEEP CONCERN IN MANY CAPITALS AROUND THE WORLD, INCLUDING WASHINGTON.

UNITED STATES WORRY OVER THE LEBANON CONFLICT HAS BEEN EXPRESSED REPEATEDLY--MOST RECENTLY JUST LAST FRIDAY IN MEXICO CITY BY SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER. SECRETARY KISSINGER REITERATED THE AMERICAN POSITION ON LEBANON. AS HE PUT-- "OUR PRIMARY OBJECTIVE IS TO PUT AN END TO THE FIGHTING, TO DO IT IN A MANNER THAT RESPECTS THE SOVEREIGNTY AND INTEGRITY OF LEBANON, ENABLES THE MOSLEM AND CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES TO LIVE SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH EACH OTHER; AND OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS SPECIFIC MEASURES WILL BE GOVERNED BY THOSE PRINCIPLES."

BUT IN THE LIGHT OF THE CONFUSED SITUATION EXISTING IN LEBANON AND AS YET UNCLEAR NATURE OF THE ARAB LEAGUE EFFORT, WASHINGTON IS RESERVING JUDGMENT ON IT.

IT IS OBVIOUS THAT BEHIND THIS RESERVED ATTITUDE TOWARD THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN LEBANON IS WASHINGTON'S DESIRE TO PREVENT THE SITUATION FROM ESCALATING IN SUCH A WAY THAT THE LEBANESE WILL BE BLOCKED FROM SEEKING THEIR OWN FORMULA FOR PEACE. FOR WASHINGTON IS CONVINCED THAT ULTIMATELY ANY SETTLEMENT OF THE LEBANESE SITUATION MUST COME FROM THE LEBANESE PEOPLE, WITH ALL FACTIONS WORKING TOGETHER TOWARD THAT GOAL. ANY OTHER BASIS FOR SETTLEMENT, WASHINGTON IS CONVINCED, WOULD AT BEST BE TEMPORARY AND FRAGILE.